

**BURNS BOG ECOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY AREA  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Tuesday, November 18, 2008 from 4:30 – 7:30 PM  
Park Centre – Pacific Spirit Regional Park  
4915 West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver BC**

**Draft Meeting Notes**

**ATTENDEES:**

Dr. Richard Hebda, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Dr. Paul Whitfield, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Dr. Hamish Kimmins, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Dr. Geoff Scudder, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Allan Dakin, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Geoff Freer, Ministry of Transportation  
Cassandra Counce, BC Ministry of Environment  
Sarah Howie, The Corporation of Delta  
Mike Brotherston, The Corporation of Delta  
*Chair*, Mitch Sokalski, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Greg Paris, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Loger Aure, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Sue Mah, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

**REGRETS:**

John Jeglum, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Dr. David Bellamy, Honorary Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel  
Barry Smith, Environment Canada

**GUESTS:**

Dr. Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld, Simon Fraser University  
Yue Cheng, Simon Fraser University

**1.0 INTRODUCTIONS**

**2.0 REVIEW AGENDA & JULY 22 MEETING NOTES**

**3.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING**

**3.1 Fire Breaks**

Fire breaks may be implemented through the large forested areas of Burns Bog by removing 50-metre strips of trees in several sections, which will help break up the forest and minimize the spread of fire. SAP advises that this intervention should be monitored because there will be consequences in vegetative response, water balance, and invasive species. The public needs to be aware of the fire breaks to minimize negative perception.

**Action Item:** SAP is to prepare a paper in Restoration Ecology which upon review and approval, could be published by January 2009. Corporation of Delta and Metro Vancouver (MV) could let the public know (galvanize citizen support) of fire breaks to prevent catastrophic fires. A graduate student should be found to conduct field work and write their thesis on this issue, starting with a pre-action study (2010 summer). Breaks should not be of linear design and should focus on areas with lower water tables. A fire scientist should be involved in this research project.

### **3.2 SAP Meeting Schedule**

BBECA SAP meetings are held regularly and scheduled till summer 2009. The next meeting will commence on January 20, 2009.

## **4.0 SAP ROLE**

### **4.1 Terms of Reference**

The primary role of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) is to advise Metro Vancouver on the implementation of the Burns Bog Management Plan. Comments on Terms of Reference to Metro Vancouver.

## **5.0 TECHNICAL ADVICE TO GATEWAY**

Allan Dakin, Richard Hebda, and John Jeglum have been working with Gateway (outside SAP role) on the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) Project. Gateway is planning to implement berms between the SFPR and the BBECA, but not directly on BBECA land. SAP recommends a lagg model to monitor and control the water levels of the bog.

The Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Environment are working together to develop a leachate collection system for landfills and are currently notifying landowners of the issue.

**Action Item:** Metro Vancouver and Gateway to discuss the implementation of berms around the bog because of its potential impact.

## **6.0 BBECA RESEARCH**

### **6.1 Lagg Research**

Sarah Howie will develop a lagg model of Burns Bog and other representative bogs in the Region. Objective is to carry out the high priority action items indicated on the workplan, study remnant pieces of lagg in Burns Bog, and design a strategy to restore the Burns Bog lagg (collect field data, develop model, and come up with a restoration plan).

### **6.2 Hydrology**

Delta has installed 2 new piezometer transects along ditches (15 piezometers) and 20 more piezometers throughout the western half of the Bog. Delta's piezometer count now totals 65. The SAP has identified the need to know how much water leaves the bog, measured as flow out of ditches.

**Action Item:** Geoff Freer is to check if Gateway is currently monitoring flow out of the Bog (this information is critical for the water balance model).

### **6.3 Water Balance Model**

SFU is interested in developing a water balance model which is important for BBECA research. Gateway is currently developing a general water balance model, which will be updated with the SFU field data once available.

### **6.4 BBECA High Priority Action Items**

Metro Vancouver Priority Actions Items are listed on page 27 in the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area Management Plan.

## **7.0 BBECA MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

The BBECA Management Plan has been signed off by the four parties. There will be a Public Information Meeting on December 4, 2008 at the Delta Town and Country Inn from 6:30 – 9:30 PM. There will be a meet and greet, overview, presentations, and displays.

## **8.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

Delta has contracted Don DeMill to monitor 20 new piezometer readings at Delta's piezometers. Delta asked if 2008 municipal elections signs made of Coroplast could be used as a material to block ditches.

**Action Item:** Sarah to email Richard Hebda to find out if the Coroplast is inert to the bog. Sarah must get written consent from the owners of the election signs to use their signs as material for ditch blocking.

## **9.0 ADJOURN**